

The fine autumn produced quite a spate of coastal Painted Ladies (*Vanessa cardui*), and Red Admiral numbers came up to normal, two being seen in December. Also a Peacock (*Nymphalis io*) was watched on December 9th, obviously enjoying life, for she spent the sunny middle day of gale force wind alternately basking on an old chapel wall, and then deliberately flying up to ridge height for a battle with the elements, before dropping to bask. This she did repeatedly, before returning(?) through the broken lattice window, once more to hibernate.

Strangest of all, in this same rough grassed city cemetery on October 4th I saw a Marbled White (*Melanargia galathea*), far from any known colony. I had to rub my eyes! Presumably a late emerged wanderer, justifiably looking perplexed when on the wing. Finally, may I gratefully thank those who so kindly advised me about life north of the border.

OBITUARY

Cecil Ralph Haxby, F.R.E.S.

The death of Cecil Haxby on the 17th December 1978 at the age of 66, he having been born on the 6th July 1913, came as a great shock to his many friends. Cecil had only retired in July 1978, and was looking forward to frequent visits to us in Hampshire where he had made many friends over the past 30 years. Indeed, most of his entomological activities both in the field and socially took place in the New Forest, where for many years we welcomed him as our special guest.

The son of the late Fred Haxby who was a prominent member of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union, Cecil followed in his father's footsteps. He was for many years a member of the Lepidoptera Committee of that body, a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society and a well-known and popular member of the British Entomological and Natural History Society to which he attended most of its Annual Dinners and Exhibitions. He was also a past President of the Bradford Naturalists' Society and assisted in the preparation of the Yorkshire List of Macrolepidoptera published in *The Naturalist* from 1967 to 1970.

Cecil Haxby served with the R.A.F. Signals during the war, mostly in South Africa and the Middle East, but acquired a good knowledge of the New Forest while stationed at Holmsley. He was also a gifted organist.

His immaculate and well set collection of lepidoptera has been accepted by Bradford Museum at Cliffe Castle, Keighley, but during our long friendship, Cecil gave us all his aberrations and these are now incorporated with ours as part of the National Collection. Among the most interesting he gave us are a female somatic mosaic *Laothoe populi* L. pink one side and pale on the other, and the gynandromorph of *Erebia aethiops* Esp. illustrated in Russwurm's *Aberrations of British Butterflies*, plate 34 figs. 15 and 16.

We have all lost a sincere friend.

R.W.W.